

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00651 260633Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 /028 W
-----021096 261923Z /66
R 260558Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2255

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EWWT, MASS, VN, AS
SUBJECT: PRESS INQUIRY CONCERNING SONG BE 12

REF: 77 STATE 291642

1. GOA TELLS US THE SONG BE 12 WAS A RELATIVELY NON-
DESCRIPT COASTAL CARGO VESSEL WHICH WAS FROM TIME TO
TIME USED AS A FISHING TRANSPORT. ALTHOUGH SET UP FOR
GENERAL CARGO CARRIAGE, IT DID HAVE AT LEAST ONE
REFRIGERATED HOLD. IT WAS BUILT IN JAPAN FOR THE SOUTH
VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, AND WAS OPERATED IN PRE-COMMUNIST
SOUTH VIETNAM BY A PRIVATE SHIPPING COMPANY.

2. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT IT HAD ANY PREVIOUS USG
CONNECTION; IT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN BUILT AS PART OF
JAPAN'S AID PROGRAM TO THE LATE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

3. ON DECEMBER 2, FONMIN PEACOCK ANNOUNCED THAT "A
THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE OWNERSHIP OF THE SONG BE
12 HAS BEEN MADE AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THE BOAT BELONGED
TO THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. THE MINISTER SAID THAT...
THE VIETNAMESE CHARGE... HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT
THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA AGREED TO THE VIETNAMESE
GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR THE BOAT." THE BOAT WAS HELD
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IN DARWIN HARBOR UNTIL THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT COULD
PROVIDE A CREW TO RETURN IT TO VIETNAM.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVESTIGATIONS, FISHING BOATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER00651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780039-0486
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780121/aaaaarfp.tel
Line Count: 58
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cd4709e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 291642
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3712128
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS INQUIRY CONCERNING SONG BE 12
TAGS: EWWT, MASS, VN, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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